



The King's Majesties

PROCLAMATION

Concerning CHURCH AFFAIRS.

CHARLES R.

CHARLES, by the grace of God, King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; To Our Lobits, Lyon King at Arms, and his brethren Heralds, Messengers, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, greeting. Alsoon as it pleased Almighty God, by his own outstretched arme, wonderfully to bring Us back in Peace, to the exercise of Our Royal Government, We did apply Our self to the restoring of Our Kingdoms, to that Liberty and happiness which they enjoyed under the Government of Our Royal Ancestors; And in order thereunto, We called a Parliament in that Our ancient Kingdom of Scotland, as the most proper mean to settle the same after so many years troubles, and to restore its ancient Liberty after those grievous sufferings, and that heavy bondage imposed of late by bloody Usurpers, because of their Loyalty expressed to Us. And Whereas the Estates of Parliament, of that Our ancient Kingdom, have so fully, freely, and unanimously, vindicated their own honour, in asserting Our Royal Power, Prerogative, the Priviledges of Our Crown, and Our Supremacy over all persons in all causes, as absolutely as ever any of our Royal Progenitors, Kings of Scotland, at any time possessed, used and exercised the same, not only by taking away of these invasions, brought on by the iniquity of the times, during the late troubles; but also by their rescinding all those pretended Parliaments, wherein any force might have appeared to have been put on Our Royal Father, since the year 1633. reserving private Rights, and indemnifying Our Subjects, for what was done during that time. And whereas Our Parliament, by their Act the twenty ninth of March, hath declared, That it is Our full and firm resolution, to maintain the true Protestant Religion, in its purity of Doctrine and Worship, as it was established within that Our Kingdom, during the Reignes of Our Royal Father and Grandfather of blessed memory and that We will be carefull to promote the power of Godliness, to encourage the exercises of Religion, both publick and private, and to suppress all prophaneness and disorderly walking; and for that end, will give all due countenance and protection to the Ministers of the Gospel, they containing themselves within the bounds and limits of their Ministerial calling, and behaving themselves with that submission and obedience to Our Authority and Commands, that is suitable to the allegiance and duty of good Subjects. And as to the Government of the Church, That we will make it Our care to settle and secure the same in such a frame, as shall be most agreeable to the Word of God, most suitable to Monarchical Government, and most complying with the publick peace and quiet of the Kingdom: And in the mean time, that We do allow the present administration by Sessions, Presbyteries and Synods (they keeping within bounds, and behaving themselves as said is) and that notwithstanding of the Act past that day, rescissorie of all pretended Parliaments since the year 1633. Therefore we have thought fit, by this Our Proclamation, not only to declare Our gracious acceptance of these ample testimonies of the duty and affection of that Our Parliament, by which the world may take notice, how unanimously Loyal that Kingdom is, and how hearty in Our Service, of which We Our self was ever confident: But also to make known Our firm Resolution, to maintain and preserve that Our Kingdom in their just Liberties; And likewise to make good what Our Parliament have declared in Our name, as to matters of Religion. And considering how much Our interest and the quiet of that Kingdom is concerned, in the right settlement and peace of that Our Church, which through the confusions of these latter times, hath been much discomposed, We do purpose, after mature deliberation, with such as we shall call, to imploy Our Royal Authority, for settling and securing the Government and the administration thereof, in such a way as may best conduce to the glory of God, to the good of Religion, to Unity, Order, and to the publick peace and satisfaction of Our Kingdom: And in the mean time, We will and command all Our loving Subjects, Ministers and others, as they will answer at their peril, to abstain from meddling with what may concern the publick Government of that Our Church, either by Preaching, Remonstrances, Warnings, Declarations, Acts, or Petitions of Church Judicatories, or any other way; and to compose themselves to that quietness and inoffensive deportment, which their duty to Us, and the peace of the Church doth require. Our Will is herefore, and We charge you straitly and command, That incontinent, these Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Percat Crofs of Our Burgh of Edinburgh, and to the remanent Percat Croffes of the head Burghs of that Our Kingdom, and there by open Proclamation in Our name and Authority, make publication hereof to all Our Leidges and Subjects, wherethrough none pretend ignorance of the same, as you will answer to Us: The which to do, we commit to you conjunctly and severally, Our full power by these Our Letters, delivering the same by you duly execute and indorsed again to the bearer. Given under Our hand at Whitehall, the tenth day of June 1661. and of Our Reign the thirteenth year.

By His Majesties Command,
LAUDERDAIL.